

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03373 052305Z

71 L

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 L-03 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /092 W

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P R 052235Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5187

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: HO, PFOR, ETRD, ECON

SUBJ: CUBAN SUGAR PURCHASE

REF: MANAGUA 3630

1. I CALLED ON CHIEF OF STATE MORNING SEPT 5 PRIMARILY TO COVER SUGAR, PETROLEUM, POSSIBLE US VISIT AND VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE RE CUBA (SEPTTEL 3370). ON SUGAR, GEN LOPEZ OPENED DISCUSSION. HONDURAS HAS DECIDED TO GO THROUGH WITH CUBAN PURCHASE. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES WERE EITHER TOO EXPENSIVE OR OFFERED LESS REFINED, BROWN PRODUCT. I EXPRESSED MY REGRETS THAT ALTERNATIVES HAD NOT PROVEN ACCEPTABLE, WHILE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A POSITION THAT IN THE FUTURE WE ARE FULLY AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS ON AN INFORMAL AND HELPFUL BASIS AT AN EARLY TIME IN THEIR GESTATION. MATTER OF FACT ATTITUDE OF GEN LOPEZ GIVES NO HINT THAT HE ANTICIPATES ANY IMPORTANT INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES OR REPERCUSSIONS FROM THE PURCHASE. THUS, IN SPITE OUR EFFORTS, AND THE GREATLY APPRECIATED ASSISTANCE OF AMB SHELTON, THIS CUBAN PURCHASE HAS GREEN LIGHT.

2. ON PETROLEUM, GEN LOPEZ STATED THE REFINERY PRICE
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03373 052305Z

HAS BEEN AGREED WITH TEXACO, BUT HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC

OTHER THAN TO INDICATE MARKETERS WOULD NEED TO ABSORB
INCREASE. HE SAID AGREEMENT WAS REACHED LAST NIGHT.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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